

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

Replacement Drawing Sheets 1 and 2 are attached hereto to replace former drawing sheets 1 and 2 and containing revised Figures 1 and 2. Revised Figures 1 and 2 have been amended herein to label the unit blocks as to functions as required by the Examiner and to otherwise conform with 37 C.F.R. 1.84. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by the amendments to the drawings.

## REMARKS

This paper is being provided in response to the Office Action dated January 4, 2007, for the above-referenced application. In this response, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 2, 5, 16 and 23-26 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and amended claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, and 19 to clarify that which Applicants consider to be the claimed invention. Further, Applicants have amended the drawings, as noted herein, for purposes of clarification. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the originally-filed specification and that the amendments to the drawings do not add new subject matter.

The objection to the drawings have been addressed herein, as explained above, in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The objections to claims 1, 5 and 10 (and claims depending therefrom) for informalities have been addressed by amendments contained herein in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

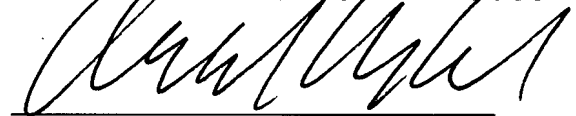
The rejections of claims 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, have been rendered moot by the cancellation herein of these claims.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5, 8-13, 16, 17, 23, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Balendonck, et al., "Application of an Intelligent Dielectric Sensor for Soil Water Content, Electrical Conductivity and Temperature," IEEE, pp. 1817-1822, 2001, have been rendered moot by the cancellation herein of claims 1, 2, 5, 16 and 23-26. The dependencies of the remaining claims have been amended to depend from allowable claims, as noted below.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15 and 18-22. Applicants have rewritten claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 14, 15, 18 and 19 into independent form to incorporate the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. The remaining pending claims of the application either depend, or have been amended to depend, therefrom. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Based on the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections and objections. Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. Should there be any questions after reviewing this paper, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at 508-898-8603.

Respectfully submitted,  
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